

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Taisto YRJÄNÄ et al

Art Unit:

Application No:

Examiner:

Filed:

For: APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING MATERIAL
TO BE TREATED IN CONTINUOUSLY
OPERATED THERMAL TREATMENT FURNACES

H. Kwon
#7/Pre
Amended
1/3/2003

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please make the following amendments to this application
prior to examination thereof.

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Claims 3-9, cancel.

Add new claims as follows:

10. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1,
characterized in that in between the control elements there is
installed an intermediate support element.

11. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1,
characterized in that in between the control element and the
sealing element there is installed an intermediate support
element.

12. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1,
characterized in that part of the surface of the control
element and part of the surface of the support element form
part of the circumference of one and the same circle.